

Honorable John D. Bates  
U.S. District Court  
333 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Judge Bates:

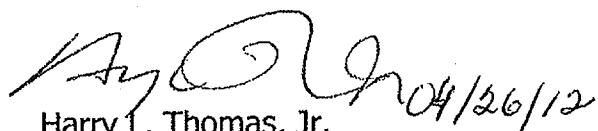
As a native Washingtonian, I have tried to dedicate my life to serving others and, in particular, to helping youth in the District of Columbia. In those pursuits, as a coach and mentor, I have preached responsibility and tried to lead by example. The actions I have taken betrayed everything that I have attempted to accomplish. I did not live by my words, and rather than leading by example, I set a poor example. My conduct was inexcusable. It is clear that, as an elected official, I should not have arranged to divert grant funds to organizations in which I had a personal interest and should not have used any of the funds myself. I broke the law, and I accept full responsibility for my actions.

I pled guilty because I am truly sorry for what I did and because I know that I myself must adhere to the lessons I have taught others about the importance of "owning up." As I have always said to those I have mentored: 1% or 100%, wrong is wrong. Clearly, what I did I was wrong. The only way for me to move forward in my life is to own up – to acknowledge how poor my judgment was, to admit that I broke the law and to accept the consequences.

I am particularly sorry for the harm I have caused others. By violating the trust that people placed in me, I brought shame not only on myself, but on my family and my supporters. I could not have let them down more. I also let down my former colleagues in District government and the citizens of the District of Columbia, especially the young people. To all of them, I apologize. Because of my misdeeds, I forfeited the chance of a lifetime – the chance they gave me to serve them in government.

Taking full responsibility for my conduct and accepting the punishment that will be imposed is the first step I am taking. I will need to spend a lot of time making amends and seeking to earn the forgiveness I hope one day to receive. Words, I know, will not be sufficient. Only actions will be. I look forward to working to make a difference in the lives of others, especially those whose trust I must restore.

Respectfully,

  
Harry L. Thomas, Jr. 04/26/12